

CLAIMS:

1. An input device (100) including at least one keypad, (10,20) the keypad (10,20) comprising a wrist support means (1a) and a key area (1), wherein the wrist support means (1a) of each keypad (10,20) comprises a generally flat portion having a front and back portion and an upper and lower surface, the back portion being defined as the area of the wrist support means that is closest to a user's arm when in use and the front portion being defined as the area furthest from a user's arm when in use, wherein the wrist support means has a plurality of soft cushioned pads (19) protruding from the upper surface of the flat portion, the key area (1) comprises a curved unit (17) having a front and back portion and an upper and lower surface, the back portion being defined as the area of the key area (1) that is closest to a user's arm when in use and the front portion being defined as the area furthest from a user's arm when in use, wherein the back portion of the key area (1) is contiguous to the front portion of the wrist support means (1a), the key area (1) having a negative convex curve, so that in use the upper surface of the front portion of the key area is positioned at a lower spatial position than the upper surface of the back portion of the key area, the key area (1) having a plurality of keys (4) positioned on the upper surface of the key area intermediate the front and back portions, and wherein the keys (4) of the key area (1) are arranged in a series of curved rows (4a) that are parallel to or concentric with the front and back portions of the key area (1), so that a central key in each row is further from the users wrist relative to at least one of the end keys in each row (4a).
2. An input device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the wrist support means comprises a plurality of soft cushioned pads.
3. An input device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the soft cushioned pads of the wrist support means comprise a plurality of gel filled pads.
4. An input device as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein the soft cushioned pads of the wrist support means are arranged in a generally square configuration, wherein the square configuration is orientated such that in use one or more pads provide support for the thumb joint of the hand and a plurality of pads provide stabilisation for hand and wrist movement.

5. An input device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the plurality of cushioned pads provided for hand and wrist movement stabilisation occupy three adjacent corners of the overall square shape and one or more cushioned pads provided for support of the thumb joint occupies the fourth corner of the square shape.
6. An input device as claimed in any one of Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the overall square configuration is orientated such that in use the support for the thumb joint is positioned under the thenar eminence of the hand, the hand movement stabiliser is positioned under the hypothenar eminence and the wrist movement stabilisers are positioned under the wrist such that the wrist joint is intermediate the thumb support and the wrist stabilisers.
7. An input device as claimed in any one of Claim 2 to Claim 6, wherein the plurality of soft cushioned pads can be formed in a single moulding, wherein the moulding maintains the individual contact points for the user's wrist and/or hand and/or thumb when in use.
8. An input device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the single moulding is a soft contoured moulding
9. An input device as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 8, wherein the gel filled pads include a source of heat for the user's wrist thereby warming the tendons of the wrist and hand.
10. An input device as claimed in any one of Claim 2, 4, 5 or 6, wherein the soft cushioned pads are formed from microcellular foam.
11. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keypad has a movable support means attached to the lower side which allows a user to manipulate the keypads in all directions to find the most comfortable position for the user to use the keypad.

12. An input device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the support means is manipulatable and lockable into a desired position.
13. An input device as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12, wherein the support means is adjustable in height to provide support to the keypad if the user wishes to stand up or sit down.
14. An input device as claimed in any one of Claim 11, Claim 12 or Claim 13, wherein the support means is attachable to securing means to secure the keypad to an article of furniture such as a computer table or a chair or a wall.
15. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keys on the keypad are positioned in a series of curved rows, where the curve of each row follows the natural contour of the metacarpal phalangeal joints of the hand.
16. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keys positioned at the end of each row are slightly raised to enable a user to access these keys with greater ease.
17. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more keys on the keypad have dual functionality.
18. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the input device comprises two keypads.
19. An input device as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first keypad is a left-hand keypad and the second keypad is a right-hand keypad.
20. An input device as claimed in Claim 18 or Claim 19, wherein the keys of each keypad are arranged using the QWERTY keyboard layout, where the alphanumeric keys of

the keypad are split into left and right hand keypads along the natural split line of the QWERTY keyboard.

21. An input device as claimed in any one of Claim 18, Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein the functional keys and control keys are divided between the two keypads.

22. An input device as claimed in any one of Claim 18 or Claim 19, wherein the keys of each keypad are arranged using the DVORAK keyboard arrangement where the alphanumeric keys of the keypad are split into left and right hand keypads along the natural split line of the DVORAK keyboard.

23. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keypad has an optional pointing device such as a roller ball feature which functions as a mouse.

24. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keypad has wireless functionality.

25. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keypad includes battery power means.

26. An input device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the keypad is adapted for use with specialist applications.

27. An input device as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the keypad has specific commonly used programming command keys in addition to alphanumeric keys.

28. An input device as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the keypad is adapted for use with computer games.

29. An input device as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the keypad is adapted for use in specialist medical applications, for example where a user has limited and or restricted movement of the hand and fingers.

30. An input device substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.